operation of said selective display designating means.

2. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said sub-drawings includes all of the information items which make up said same area of said system drawing.

3. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein all of said sub-drawings show said information items with the same magnification.

4. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein each of th: sub-drawings shows information items of a different type from the information items shown on all sub-drawings of a lower priority.

5. A drawing management and display device according to claim 4, wherein the ability to display a sub-drawing within a desired display time is determined by the number and type of information items included in the sub-drawing.

6. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said entire system is a gas/water supply pipe-laying system.

7. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said entire system is an electric power/ telephone wiring system.

8. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said entire system is a machine designating system.

9. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said entire system is a road traffic information map.

10. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of sub-drawings which represent the same area of said system drawing include at least three sub-drawings.

11. A drawing management and display device [according to claim 1, wherein said] comprising a displaying means which includes a means for displaying a three-dimensional retrieval icon for respective sub-drawings, the amount of data in a respective sub-drawing being indicated by a dimension of each respective displayed retrieval icon.

12. A drawing management and display device according to claim 1, wherein said selective display designating means includes a means for storing a table of values including indicators of respective areas of said system drawing and a priority designated for each respective area, and further including a means responsive to an indicator of an area of said system drawing for selecting a sub-drawing of that area designated by the priority in said table of values.

13. A drawing management and display device according to claim 12, further including a input means for editing said table of values to change the priority designated for a respective area of said system drawing.

14. A drawing management and display device for managing divided facility drawings having the same magnification of an entire facility as digital information, said drawing management and display device comprising:

a first means for referencing a total display time for displaying said system drawing, for determining a plurality of different display time priority levels each having a different display time which is shorter than said total display time, and for storing divided facility drawings with respective priorities each of which represents an ability to display a desired facility drawing within a different said different display time when combining at least selected ones of features of said divided facility drawings;

a drawing inputting means for editing said divided facility drawings stored in said first means;

a data inputting means for inputting attribute information to be stored in the first means;

a second means for temporarily storing said divided facility drawings stored in said first means and temporarily storing said divided facility drawings given from said drawing inputting means; and

a means for displaying said divided facility drawings stored in said second means and said attribute information.

15. An image data display method comprising a step of:

displaying on a display screen, a respective predetermined three-dimensional shape to represent each image of a drawing to be displayed such that a data amount of said image is represented by a length in a predetermined one-dimensional direction of said three-dimensional shape, wherein images belonging to a same predetermined group are each displayed on the display screen in the form of the predetermined three-dimensional shape and in a form of an icon in such a manner that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to the same predetermined group is represented by an accumulated length in the predetermined one-dimensional direction.

16. An image data display method according to claim 15, wherein the three-dimensional shape is a rectangular parallelepiped or a cube.

17. An image data display method according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined one-dimensional direction of said predetermined three-dimensional shape is a direction at least partially in a depth of the display.

18. An image data display method according to claim 15, wherein the icon is more particularly an icon for retrieving the images belong to the same predetermined group.

19. An image data display method comprising the step of:

displaying on a display screen, a predetermined three-dimensional shape and icon to represent images belonging to a same predetermined group of a drawing to be displayed, such that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to the same predetermined group is represented by an accumulated length in a predetermined one-dimensional direction of said three-dimensional shape.

20. An image display method comprising the step of:

displaying on a display screen, a respective predetermined three-dimensional shape and icon to represent images belonging to different predetermined groups of a drawing to be displayed, such that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to a same predetermined group is represented by an accumulated length in a predetermined one-dimensional direction of said three-dimensional shape associated with said same predetermined group, and such that the respective predetermined three-dimensional shapes and icons for said different predetermined groups are displayed separately on said display screen.

21. An image data display method according to claim 20, wherein the respective predetermined three-dimensional shapes and icons for said different predetermined groups are more specifically displayed separately in a second one-dimensional direction which is different from said predetermined one-dimensional direction.

22. An image data display apparatus comprising:

an image data amount calculation unit which obtains an accumulated data amount for images belonging to a same predetermined group; and

an icon three-dimensional display processing unit which displays on a display screen, a respective predetermined three-dimensional shape to represent each image of a drawing to be displayed such that a data amount of said image is represented by a length in a predetermined one-dimensional direction of said three-dimensional shape, wherein images belonging to the same

predetermined group are each displayed on the display screen in the form of the predetermined three-dimensional shape and in a form of an icon in such a manner that an accumulated data amount of said images belonging to the same predetermined

5 group is represented by an accumulated length in the predetermined one-dimensional direction.

23. An image data display apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said icon three-dimensional display processing unit displays the icon in a shape of a rectangular parallelepiped or a

10 cube.

24. An image data display apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the predetermined one-dimensional direction of said predetermined three-dimensional shape is a direction at least partially in a depth of the display.

15 25. An image data display apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the icon is more particularly an icon for retrieving the images belong to the same predetermined group.

26. A drawing management and display device for displaying digital information of a system drawing, showing an entire

20 system having a plurality of information items, within a desired display time, said drawing management and display device comprising:

a means for referencing a total display time required for displaying said system drawing, for determining a plurality of

25 different display time priority levels each having a different display time which is shorter than said total display time, and for storing said system drawing as a plurality of sub-drawings each representing the same area of said system drawing and having a different number of said plurality of information items

30 which make up said entire system such that display of each of said sub-drawings is accomplished within a different said different display time, said sub-drawings being stored with respective priorities each of which represents an ability to display the sub-drawing within a different said different display

35 time;

a selective display designating means for automatically selecting one of said sub-drawings stored in the storing means on the basis of the priority thereof in order to accomplish display within said desired display time; and

40 a means for displaying selected said sub-drawings within said desired display time in response to said selecting operation of said selective display designating means;

wherein said displaying means includes a means for displaying a three-dimensional retrieval icon for respective sub-drawings,

45 the amount of data in a respective sub-drawing being indicated by a dimension of each respective displayed retrieval icon.

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